

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA

Tuesday, April 13, 2004

In the mid 1990's, \$14 million in property taxes were shifted from the County's Library district to the State of California. Over time, this has become an annual \$7.2 million shortfall in the Library's budget and affects services at 84 branches and four bookmobiles. The Board of Supervisors has funded this structural shortfall for three years, however, in the past year, the Board put cities on notice that if they failed to place the special tax on their ballots, their library services would be in jeopardy. The following cities responded and placed the library measure on their city ballots: Bell, San Fernando, Huntington Park, South Gate, Montebello, La Puente, Bradbury, Avalon, Carson, Gardena, and Walnut. While the majority of the voters supported this measure, none passed due to the two-thirds requirement.

The County Library's Special parcel tax generates \$10 million from cities and unincorporated areas. With increased costs, inflation, and other funding shifts, it is appropriate, that this Board direct the County Librarian to develop a curtailment plan for 2004-05 which reflects how much revenue each jurisdiction contributes for library services. Notwithstanding further cuts from the Governor's budget, the Librarian needs direction for reducing services in cities that do not pay their fair share for library services.

MOTION

Molina	_____
Burke	_____
Yaroslavsky	_____
Antonovich	_____
Knabe	_____

I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT:

- 1) The County Librarian report back during 2004-05 budget deliberations with a curtailment plan that protects each city and unincorporated area contributing to the County Library Special Parcel Tax as well as those cities whose property taxes fully contribute to the cost of running their library; and
- 2) The Librarian develop a menu of options for municipalities to buy back library services and materials to replace the curtailment (cost per day of service, or cost to replace staff positions); and
- 3) The Librarian develop a menu of options for municipalities to contribute in-kind service to replace curtailed service (for example donation of janitorial or landscaping services in exchange for cuts of County funds for landscaping).

CS/sf